

VHF MARINE TRANSCEIVER

C-M56

Icom Inc.



# IMPORTANT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

carefully and completely Before using the transceiver, read all instructions

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS — This instruction

manual contains important safety and operating

16 V DC power source or an AC outlet. This will NEVER connect the transceiver to more than a instructions for the IC-M56.

**NEVER** allow children to touch the transceiver.

ruin the transceiver.

using in rain and snow. NEVER put the transceiver in water. AVOID

+60°C (+140°F). with temperatures below -20°C (-4°F) or over AVOID using or placing the transceiver in areas

AVOID placing the transceiver in direct sunlight.

and other electrical instruments to prevent instruaway as possible from electrical pumps, generators ment malfunctions, KEEP the antenna cable and DC power cord as far

vibrations, etc. transceiver damage could occur due to wave shock, mounted with bolts and nuts, personal injury or BE CAREFUL! If the transceiver is not securely

long time when the transceiver transmits continuously for a BE CAREFUL! The heatsink may become hot

to the sides of the transceiver resistant when four screws are securely tightened BE CAREFUL! The transceiver is only weather-

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marine transceiver using the most advanced technology. TRANSCEIVER. Thank you for purchasing the IC-M56 VHF MARINE Icom has produced this easy-to-operate

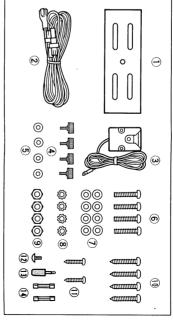
The IC-M56 has the following advanced features:

- Strong weather-resistant, dust-tight case
- 25 W of high transmission output power Voltage source deviation indicator
- Dual watch and a variety of scans
- 20 user-programmed memory channels
- Momentary high power on Channels 13 and 67
- High sensitivity and strong intermodulation rejection Single-tone, double high-tone and double low-tone beeps

please read this instruction manual thoroughly. For further Dealer or Service Center. information, please feel free to contact your nearest Icom To fully appreciate the capabilities of your new IC-M56,

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#### UNPACKING



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#### (1) PRIORITIES

- Read all rules and regulations pertaining to priorities and keep an up-to-date copy handy. Safety and distress calls take priority over all others.
- You must monitor Channel 16 while you do not operate on another channel.
- False or fraudulent distress signals are prohibited and punishable by law.

#### (2) PRIVACY

- Information overheard but not intended for you cannot lawfully be used in any way.
- 2) Indecent or profane language is prohibited.

#### (3) RADIO LICENSES

#### 1) Ship Station License

When your craft is equipped with a VHF FM transceiver, you must have a current radio station license before using the transceiver. It is unlawful to operate a ship station which is not licensed.

### **OPERATING RULES**

Inquire through your dealer or the appropriate government agency for a Ship-Radiotelephone License application. Your government-issued license states the call sign which is your craft's identification for radio purposes.

#### 2) Operator's License

A restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit is the license most often held by small vessel radio operators when a radio is not required for safety purposes. You can usually obtain this permit by mail.

The Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit must be posted near the transceiver or be kept with the operator. Only a licensed radio operator may operate a transceiver.

However, non-licensed individuals may talk over a transceiver if a licensed operator starts, supervises, and ends the call, and makes the necessary log entries.

A current copy of the applicable government rules and regulations is usually required to be kept.

### INSTALLATION

## (1) MOUNTING THE TRANSCEIVER

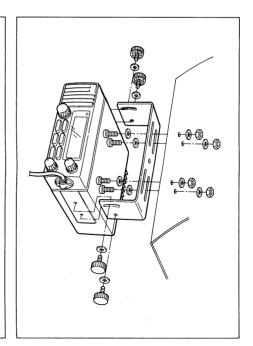
The universal bracket supplied with your transceiver allows "overhead" or "dashboard" mounting. Please read the following instructions carefully.

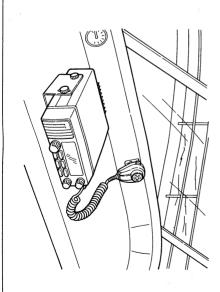
 Install the bracket so the transceiver is adequately supported, thus protecting it from wave shock and vibrations.

Try to avoid drilling new mounting holes in the bracket,

as the balance of the transceiver may be affected

 An optional MB-28 FLUSH MOUNT is available from lcom. If you need special hardware for installation, any good marine store may assist you.





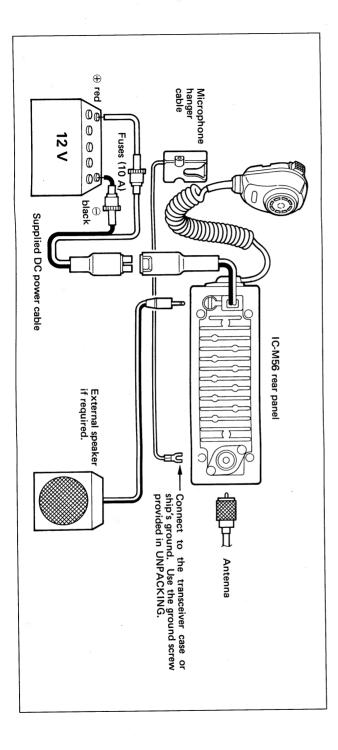
#### (2) CONNECTION

Use a 12 V DC power source and be sure of the following points:

- AVOID long cable runs to the antenna and power source.
- KEEP these cables as far as possible from electrical pumps, generators and other electronic instruments.

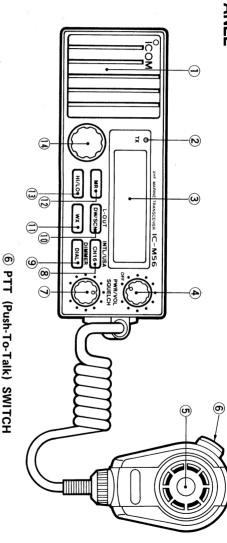
#### (3) ANTENNA

The single, most important item that influences the performance of any communication system is the antenna. Ask your dealer about antennas and the best place to mount them



#### ယ PANEL DESCRIPTION

#### 3-1 FRONT PANEL



- (1) SPEAKER
- ② TX INDICATOR [TX]
- Lights when transmitting.

3 FUNCTION DISPLAY

- information. Displays the current operating channel and additional Refer to Section 3 - 3 FUNCTION DIS-
- 4 VOLUME CONTROL/POWER SWITCH [PWR/VOL] Turns power ON and OFF and adjusts the speaker

- Push and hold to transmit and release to receive.
- TO SQUELCH CONTROL [SQUELCH]
- Rotate clockwise to eliminate audio noise
- When a signal is received, the squelch opens and audio is

emitted from the speaker.

- (8) CHANNEL 16 SWITCH [CH 16]
- Selects Channel 16. Used for emergency and distress calls and as call channel

U.S.A. or International channels. While pushing [HI/LO], push this switch to select the

**5 MICROPHONE** 

While pushing [HI/LO], push this switch to turn ON and OFF the function display backlight.

## ① DUAL WATCH AND SCAN SWITCH [DW/SCN]

Push this switch to start dual watch.

Push and hold this switch to start scanning

While pushing [HI/LO], push this switch to program or cancel the lockout function for a specific channel.

### ① WEATHER CHANNEL SWITCH [WX] Selects the weather channel mode.

### 12 MEMORY SWITCH [MR]

Push this switch to select the memory mode. Push and hold this switch to write a memory.

### (3) TRANSMIT POWER SWITCH [HI/LO]

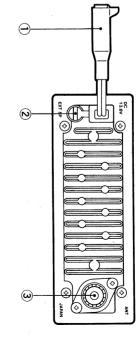
Selects the high or low transmitter output power

This switch also activates the secondary function of the [DW/SCN], [CH 16] and [DIAL] switches. The secondary function is printed above the switch.

#### (1) CHANNEL SELECTOR

Selects an operating channel.

#### 3-2 REAR PANEL



### ① DC POWER CONNECTOR

Connect the supplied DC power cable from this connector to an external 12 V DC power source.

### 2 EXTERNAL SPEAKER JACK

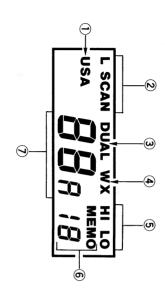
4  $\Omega$  speaker jack.

### **3 ANTENNA CONNECTOR**

Connects an antenna with a PL-259 connector to the transceiver.

**CAUTION:** Transmitting without an antenna will damage the transceiver.

### 3-3 FUNCTION DISPLAY



### ① U.S.A. CHANNEL INDICATOR

"USA" appears when U.S.A. channels are selected. There is no indicator for international channels

#### **2 SCAN INDICATOR**

- "SCAN" appears while scanning.
- "L SCAN" appears while scanning if channels have been locked out.
- "L" appears when a channel has been locked out.

### 3 DUAL WATCH INDICATOR

Appears during dual watch operation.

**4** WEATHER CHANNEL INDICATOR

Appears when receiving on a weather channel.

**⑤** TRANSMIT POWER INDICATOR Displays transmit output power "HI" (HIGH) or "LO"

Blinks when the power source is more than 16.5 V ("HI") or less than 11 V ("LO").

## CAUTION: When these indicators blink, discon-

**6 MEMORY INDICATOR** Displays "MEMO" and the memory channel number nect the DC power cable and check the power source.

### **② CHANNEL INDICATOR**

when the memory mode is selected.

Displays the operating channel.

### **BASIC OPERATION**

### 4-1 SELECTING A CHANNEL

- Rotate [PWR/VOL] clockwise to turn ON power.
   Channel 16 is displayed
- Channel 16 is displayed.
- 2) Select your desired mode.
- Dial mode : push [DIAL]
- Weather channel mode : push [WX].
- When you have pushed [DIAL], select U.S.A. or international channels. If you have pushed [WX], proceed to step 4.
- To switch between U.S.A. and International channels, push and hold [HI/LO] and then push [CH 16].
- 4) Rotate the channel selector to set your desired channel.

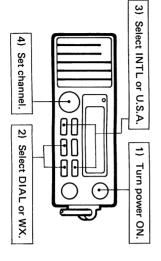
### 4-2 INSTANT ACCESS TO CHANNEL 16

Channel 16 is an emergency, distress and call channel. Access Channel 16 instantly in any of the following ways:

- ① Push [CH 16].

② Turn power OFF and then turn it ON again.

3 Hang the microphone on the microphone hook.



#### 4-3 RECEIVING

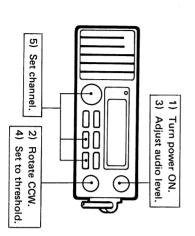
- 1) Rotate [PWR/VOL] to turn ON power
- ,

2) Rotate [SQUELCH] completely counterclockwise.

- 3) Adjust [PWR/VOL] to a suitable audio level

4) Rotate [SQUELCH] clockwise until the noise is quieted.

- 5) To set the desired channel, refer to Section 4 1 SE-LECTING A CHANNEL.
- When a signal is received, the squelch opens and audio is emitted from the speaker.



### **4-4 TRANSMITTING**

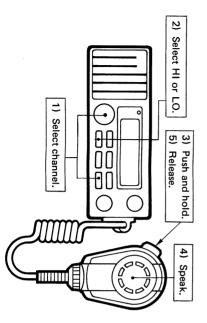
### ■ CALL PROCEDURES

You must identify yourself when you transmit and you must respect time limits.

- Give your call sign each time you call another vessel or a coast station. If you have no call sign, identify the station by giving the vessel name and the name of the licensee.
- 2) Give your call sign at the end of each transmission that lasts more than 3 minutes.
- You must break and give your call sign at least once every 15 minutes during long ship-to-shore calls.
- 4) Keep your calls short (less than 30 seconds). Wait2 minutes before repeating the call.
- 5) Unnecessary transmissions are not allowed.

#### BASIC OPERATION 4

- 1) Select the operating channel. See Section 4-1 for details.
- 2) Push [HI/LO] to select transmit power.
- Either "HI" or "LO" is displayed.
- Transmission is restricted on some channels.
- 3) Push and hold the PTT switch to transmit.The red [TX] indicator lights.
- 4) Speak into the microphone at your normal voice level.
- Do not hold the microphone close to your mouth or speak with a loud voice. This may distort the signal.
- 5) Release the PTT switch to receive.



### ■ TRANSMITTER RESTRICTIONS

e only	Receive only	WEATHER CHANNELS
No restriction	Momentary high power*	67
Low power only	Low power only	17
Low power only	Receive only	15
No restriction	Momentary high power*	13
INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS	U.S.A. CHANNELS	CHANNEL NUMBER

### \*MOMENTARY HIGH POWER:

On these channels, transmissions using high power are momentarily possible. To transmit using high power, push and hold [HI/LO] and [PTT].

### 5-1 MEMORY CHANNEL

The transceiver has 20 memory channels. The memory channels are especially useful to quickly call up channels you often use.

## (1) READING A MEMORY CHANNEL

- 1) Push [MR] to select the memory mode
- 2) Rotate the channel selector to select the desired channel.

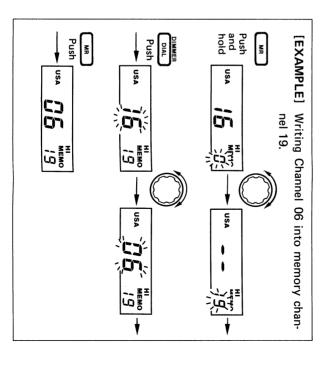
**NOTE:** Only channels you have already programmed can be selected. If no memory channel is programmed, the channel selector is deactivated.

## (2) WRITING A MEMORY CHANNEL

- Push and hold [MR] until the memory channel number blinks.
- Rotate the channel selector to select the desired memory channel number.
- 3) Push [DIAL] or [WX] to select the desired mode.• When the dial mode has been selected, choose U.S.A.

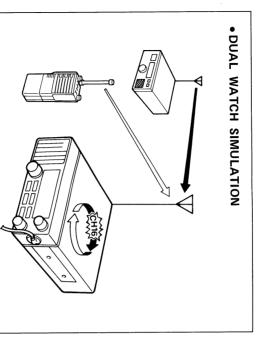
or international channels.

- 4) Rotate the channel selector to select the desired channel you want to program.
   When the dial mode has been selected in step 3, choose high or low transmit programming.
- 5) Push [MR] to complete programming.



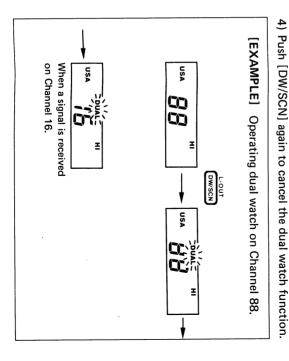
#### 5-2 DUAL WATCH

use another channel. The dual watch function monitors Channel 16 while you



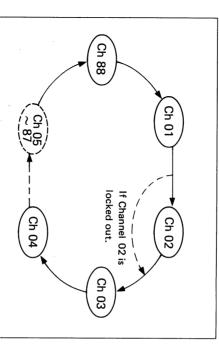
- If a signal is received on Channel 16, dual watch stops on Channel 16 until the signal disappears.
- During dual watch, you cannot transmit on Channel 16

- 1) Select the desired operating channel. When Channel 16 is selected, dual watch deactivates.
- Rotate [SQUELCH] until the audio noise disappears.
- 3) Push [DW/SCN] to start the dual watch function.
- "DUAL" blinks on the function display.



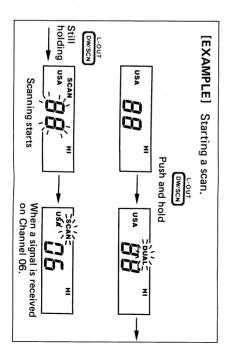
#### 5-3 SCANNING

The transceiver has three scans: dial scan, weather channel scan and memory scan. Scanning skips over channels that are locked out.



- When a signal is received, scanning stops and "SCAN" blinks on the function display until the signal disappears.
- Transmitting during a scan cancels the scan.
- The channel selector is deactivated while scanning.

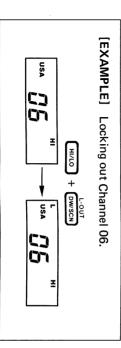
- 1) Select the desired mode
- Push [DIAL] for the dial mode.
- Push [WX] for the weather channel mode.
- Push [MR] for the memory mode
- 2) Rotate [SQUELCH] until the audio noise disappears.
- Push and hold [DW/SCN] until "SCAN" appears on the function display.
- Scanning starts after "DUAL" blinks twice and three beeps are heard.
- 4) To cancel the scanning, push [DW/SCN] again.



### **CHANNEL LOCKOUT**

This function allows you to skip certain channels while scanning, shortening interval scanning time.

- 1) To select the desired mode, push [DIAL], [WX] or [MR].
- 2) Rotate the channel selector to select the channel to be locked out.
- 3) While pushing [HI/LO], push [DW/SCN]."L" appears on the function display.
- 4) To cancel the lockout function for that channel, repeat step 3.



### 5-4 DIMMER CONTROL

The backlight intensity of the function display can be adjusted or turned OFF.

## (1) TURNING OFF THE BACKLIGHT

- 1) While pushing [HI/LO] push [DIAL] to turn OFF the display backlight.
- 2) To turn the backlight ON again, repeat step 1.

## (2) ADJUSTING THE BACKLIGHT

- 1) While pushing [HI/LO], push and hold [DIAL].
- Hold [DIAL], release [HI/LO], then rotate the channel selector.
- The backlight intensity changes.

### **MAINTENANCE**

### 6-1 TROUBLESHOOTING

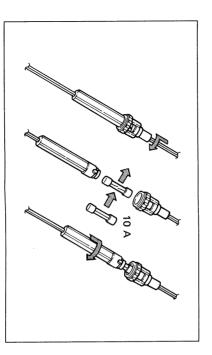
PROBLEM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	SOLUTION
• No power.	<ul><li>Power connector has a poor contact.</li><li>Blown fuse.</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Check the connector pin.</li> <li>Check the polarity of the power connection, then replace the fuse.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>No sound from the speaker.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>[SQUELCH] is turned too far clockwise.</li> <li>An external speaker or cable is broken, if connected.</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Rotate [SQUELCH] counterclockwise.</li><li>Unplug the external speaker jack.</li></ul>
<ul> <li>Sensitivity is low and only strong signals are audible.</li> </ul>	• Antenna feedline is cut or short-circuited.	<ul> <li>Check the feedline and correct any improper condition.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Bad connection at the antenna connector.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Check the antenna connector and clean the center conductor of the plug.</li> </ul>
Cannot transmit at high power or cannot transmit at all.	<ul> <li>Transmission is restricted on some channels.</li> </ul>	• See page 9 for details,
The displayed channel does not change.	• Channel 16 is selected.	<ul><li>Push [DIAL] then rotate the channel selector.</li></ul>
The memory channel cannot be changed.	<ul> <li>Memory channels have not been programmed.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Program at least two memory channels.</li> <li>See p. 10.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Scanning or dual watch does not function.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Channel 16 is displayed.</li> <li>The squelch opens.</li> <li>Memory channels have not been programmed if operating the memory scan.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Push [DIAL] then start scanning.</li> <li>Rotate [SQUELCH] clockwise.</li> <li>Program at least two memory channels.</li> <li>See p. 10.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>The function display occasion- ally displays erroneous infor- mation.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The internal CPU has malfunctioned.</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Reset the CPU. See p. 15.</li></ul>

#### MAINTENANCE 6

### 6-2 FUSE REPLACEMENT

Two fuses are installed in the DC power cable. If the fuses blow or the transceiver stops functioning, track down the source of the problem, if possible, and replace the damaged fuse with a new, rated fuse.

Fuse rating : 10 A

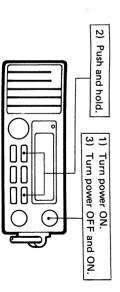


### 6-3 RESETTING THE CPU

If the function display occasionally displays erroneous information when the power is turned ON or when operating, reset the CPU.

**BE CAREFUL!** After resetting the CPU, all information you have programmed into the memory channels will be erased.

- Turn power ON.
- 2) Push and hold [CH 16] and [MR].
- 3) Turn power OFF and then turn it ON again.
- The function display illuminates all characters for a second.
- 4) Release [CH 16] and [MR].



#### O MAINTENANCE

### 6-4 BACKUP BATTERY

The built-in lithium battery retains the information programmed into the memory channels. The life of the lithium battery is approximately five years. If the battery is exhausted, the transceiver operates normally but the information in the memory channels is not retained.

**NOTE:** Backup battery replacement **MUST** be done by an authorized Icom Dealer or Icom Service Center.

#### 6-5 CLEANING

If the transceiver becomes dusty or dirty, wipe it clean with a dry, soft cloth.

**AVOID** the use of strong chemical agents such as benzine or alcohol, as they may damage the transceiver's surfaces.

### Tech Talk from Icom

- Q. How far does a signal reach when transmitted over a sea or lake?
- A. For practical purposes, there is very little signal propagation beyond the line-of-sight range when using VHF frequencies.

In theory, the distance of possible communication between 2 stations is obtained using the following formula:

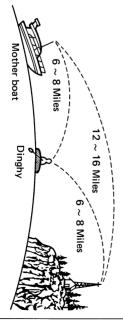
D (nm) = 
$$1.22 \times (\sqrt{h1} + \sqrt{h2})$$

D: Distance h1, h2: Antenna height (ft)

For instance, where h1 = 8 ft and h2 = 8 ft, the distance is: D (nm) =  $1.22 \times (\sqrt{8} + \sqrt{8})$ 

= Approx. 7 nm = Approx. 8 miles

#### • TYPICAL APPLICATION



Depending on weather conditions and your location, some signals may not reach 8 miles and others may extend beyond 8 miles.

# VHF MARINE CHANNEL CHART

				25 W & 1 W	161.525	156.925	/α	25 W & T W	15/.100	157.100	22A
RX only	163.275	:	WX10	25 W & 1 W	156.875	156.875	77	25 W & 1 W	161.700	157.100	22
RX only	161.775	:	WX 9	Guard	:	: : :	76	25 W & 1 W	157.050	157.050	21A
RX only	161.650		WX 8	Guard			75	25 W & 1 W	161.650	157.050	21
RX only	162.525	::::	WX 7	25 W & 1 W	156.725	156.725	74	25 W & 1 W	157.000	157.000	20A
RX only	162.500	:	WX 6	25 W & 1 W	156.675	156.675	73	25 W & 1 W	161.600	157.000	20
RX only	162.450	:	WX 5	25 W & 1 W	156.625	156.625	72	25 W & 1 W	156.950	156.950	19A
RX only	162.425	:	WX 4	25 W & 1 W	156.575	156.575	71	25 W & 1 W	161.550	156.950	19
RX only	162.475		WX 3	1 W only	156.525	156.525	70	25 W & 1 W	156.900	156.900	18A
RX only	162.400	:	WX 2	25 W & 1 W	156.475	156.475	69	25 W & 1 W	161.500	156.900	18
RX only	162.550	:	WX 1	25 W & 1 W	156.425	156.425	68	1 W only	156.850	156.850	17
				25 W & 1 W	156.375	156.375	67	25 W & 1 W	156.800	156.800	16
25 W & 1 W	157.425	157.425	88A	25 W & 1 W	156.325	156.325	66 A	1 W only	156.750	156.750	15
25 W & 1 W	162.025	157.425	88	25 W & 1 W	160.925	156.325	66	25 W & 1 W	156.700	156.700	14
25 W & 1 W	157.375	157.375	87A	25 W & 1 W	156.275	156.275	65A	25 W & 1 W	156.650	156.650	13
25 W & 1 W	161.975	157.375	87	25 W & 1 W	160.875	156.275	65	25 W & 1 W	156.600	156.600	12
25 W & 1 W	157.325	157.325	86 A	25 W & 1 W	156.225	156.225	64A	25 W & 1 W	156.500	156.550	11
25 W & 1 W	161.925	157.325	8	25 W & 1 W	160.825	156.225	2	25 W & 1 W	156.500	156.500	10
25 W & 1 W	157.275	157.275	85A	25 W & 1 W	156.175	156.175	63 A	25 W & 1 W	156.450	156.450	9
25 W & 1 W	161.875	157.275	8	25 W & 1 W	160.775	156.175	ස	25 W & 1 W	156.400	156.400	80
25 W & 1 W	157.225	157.225	84A	25 W & 1 W	156.125	156.125	62A	25 W & 1 W	156.350	156.350	07A
25 W & 1 W	161.825	157.225	22	25 W & 1 W	160.725	156.125	62	25 W & 1 W	160.950	156.350	07
25 W & 1 W	157.175	157.175	83A	25 W & 1 W	156.075	156.075	61A	25 W & 1 W	156.300	156.300	90
25 W & 1 W	161.775	157.175	8	25 W & 1 W	160.675	156.075	61	25 W & 1 W	156.250	156.250	05A
25 W & 1 W	157.125	157.125	82A	25 W & 1 W	156.025	156.025	60A	25 W & 1 W	160.850	156.250	05
25 W & 1 W	161.725	157.125	82	25 W & 1 W	160.625	156.025	60	25 W & 1 W	156.200	156.200	04A
25 W & 1 W	157.075	157.075	81A	25 W & 1 W	162.000	157.400	28	25 W & 1 W	160.800	156.200	04
25 W & 1 W	161.675	157.025	82	25 W & 1 W	161.950	157.350	27	25 W & 1 W	156.150	156.150	03A
25 W & 1 W	157.025	157.025	80A	25 W & 1 W	161.900	157.300	26	25 W & 1 W	160.750	156.150	၀ၗ
25 W & 1 W	161.625	157.025	8	25 W & 1 W	161.850	157.250	25	25 W & 1 W	156.100	156.100	02A
25 W & 1 W	156.975	156.975	79A	25 W & 1 W	161.800	157.200	24	25 W & 1 W	160.700	156.100	02
25 W & 1 W	161.575	156.975	79	25 W & 1 W	157.150	157.150	23A	25 W & 1 W	156.050	156.050	01A
25 W & 1 W	156.925	156.925	78A	25 W & 1 W	161.750	157.150	23	25 W & 1 W	160.650	156.050	2
output power	Receive	Transmit Receive	No.	output power	Receive	Transmit Receive	No.	output power	Receive	Transmit	No.
Transmit	y (MHz)	Frequency (MHz)	Channel	Transmit	y (MHz)	Frequency (MHz)	Channel	Transmit	y (MHz)	Frequency (MHz)	Channel

### **SPECIFICATIONS**

#### I GENERAL

 Type of emission 16K0G3E

50 Ω

Antenna impedance

 Usable temperature range Frequency stability  $\pm 0.0005~\%$  $-20^{\circ}\text{C} \sim +60^{\circ}\text{C} \ (-4^{\circ}\text{F} \sim +140^{\circ}\text{F})$ 

Dimensions

 Power supply voltage 13.8 V DC negative ground

140 (W)  $\times$  55 (H)  $\times$  155 (D) mm, 5.5 (W)  $\times$  2.2 (H)  $\times$  6.1 (D) in (Projections not included)

Weight 1.1 kg (2.4 lb)

#### I RECEIVER

 $156 \sim 163 \, \text{MHz}$ 

 Sensitivity Frequency range  $0.3 \,\mu\text{V}$  for 12 dB SINAD

4 W with a 4  $\Omega$  load

Audio output power

 Intermediate frequency 1st 21.8 MHz, 2nd 455 kHz 1.0 A (at max. audio with brightest display) 190 mA (standby condition with no display backlight)

#### TRANSMITTER

Current drain

 Frequency range  $156 \sim 157.5 \, \text{MHz}$ 

 Output power HIGH 25 W, LOW 1 W

 Microphone impedance 600Ω

Current drain

1.4 A at LOW output power

5.5 A at HIGH output power

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

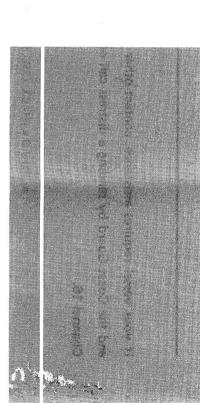
C

If your vessel requires assistance, contact other vessels and the Coast Guard by sending a distress call on Channel 16.

### DISTRESS CALL PROCEDURE

- 1. "MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY"
- "THIS IS " (name of vessel)
- . "LOCATED AT " (vessel's position). Give the reason for the distress call.
- 5. Explain what assistance you need.
- Give additional information:
- Vessel type
- Vessel length
- Vessel color

#### Count on us!



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